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Applicant: Bene et al.
Appl. No.: 10/526,498
Filing Date: September 29, 2005
Title: CONTROL APPARATUS AND CONTROL METHOD FOR A BLOOD TREATMENT EQUIPMENT
Attorney Docket No.: 07552.0055-00000
Pub. No.: US 2006/0157413 A1
Pub. Date: July 20, 2006

This is a decision on the request for a corrected patent application publication under 37 CFR 1.221(b), received on September 8, 2006, for the above-identified application

The request is DISMISSED.

Applicant requests that the application be republished because the patent application publication contains a material error because the following was missing:

“Gambro Lundia AB” does not appear as assignee on the cover page.

Amendments to claim 3, as provided in the Preliminary Amendment filed on March 4, 2005.

The Cross Reference to Related Applications, as provided in the Preliminary Amendment filed on March 4, 2005.

37 CFR 1.221 (b) is applicable “only when the Office makes a material mistake which is apparent from Office records.... Any request for a corrected publication or revised patent application publication other than provided as provided in paragraph (a) of this section must be filed within two months from the date of the patent application publication. This period is not extendable.” A material mistake must affect the public’s ability to appreciate the technical disclosure of the patent application publication, to determine the scope of the patent application publication, or to determine the scope of the provisional rights that an applicant may seek to enforce upon issuance of a patent.¹

The instant request does not identify a material mistake in the publication made by the Office under 37 CFR 1.221(b) with respect to the assignment information. The application was

¹Changes to Implement Eighteen-Month Publication of Patent Applications, 65 FR 57023, 57038 (Sept. 20, 2000), 1239, Off. Gaz. Pat. Office Notices 63, 75 (Oct. 10, 2000) (final rule).

correctly published without the assignment information as assignment information was not provided with an application data sheet or transmittal letter on filing.² Applicants should not file requests for corrected publication that include errors in assignment information or missing assignment information. See MPEP § 1130.

The instant request does not identify a material mistake in the publication made by the Office under 37 CFR 1.221(b) with respect the amendments to claim 3, as the amendments to claim 3 are incorporated into claim 3.

The patent application publication does not include a mistake with respect to the preliminary amendment to the benefit/priority claim. The patent application publication does not include a mistake regarding the failure to include the preliminary amendment in the publication by the Office because patent application publications are not required to include preliminary amendments, according to 37 CFR 1.215(a)³, which says the following, in part:

(a) ... The patent application publication will be based upon the specification and drawings deposited on the filing date of the application, as well as the executed oath or declaration submitted to complete the application. **The patent application publication may also be based upon amendments to the specification (other than the abstract or the claims) that are reflected in a substitute specification under Sec. 1.125(b),** amendments to the abstract under Sec. 1.121(b), amendments to the claims that are reflected in a complete claim listing under Sec. 1.121(c), and amendments to the drawings under Sec. 1.121(d), provided that such substitute specification or amendment is submitted in sufficient time to be entered into the Office file wrapper of the application before technical preparations for publication of the application have begun. (emphasis added)

§ 1.215(c) says the following:

(c) At applicant's option, the patent application publication will be based upon the copy of the application (specification, drawings, and oath or declaration) as amended, provided that applicant supplies such a copy in compliance with the Office electronic filing system requirements within one month of the mailing date of the first Office communication that includes a confirmation number for the application, or fourteen months of the earliest filing date for which a benefit is sought under title 35, United States Code, whichever is later.

While the patent application publication may now include a preliminary amendment, the Office is not required to use the preliminary amendment. The Office changed the procedures for publication of patent applications so as to publish applications as amended, when possible. Until 2004, patent application publications were published as originally filed. See Patent Application Publications May Now Include Amendments, 1281 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office Notices 53 (April 13, 2004) and MPEP 1121. Applicant did not file a substitute specification, which incorporated the

² See 37 CFR 1.215 and Comment 59, Changes to Implement Eighteen-Month Publication of Patent Applications, 65 FR 57023, 57047 (Sept. 20, 2000), 1239 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office Notices 63, 84 (Oct. 10, 2000) (final rule).

³ Changes to Support Implementation of the United States Patent and Trademark Office 21st Century Strategic Plan; Final Rule, 69 FR 56482 (Sept. 21, 2004).

preliminary amendment. See Pre-Grant Publication Helpful Hint: File Continuation or Divisional Application with a New Specification and Copy of Oath or Declaration from Prior Application, 1251 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office Notices 54 (Oct. 9, 2001). The Office correctly published the application in accordance with 37 CFR 1.215(a).

Applicant is reminded of his duty to conduct a reasonable inquiry before filing a paper before the Office. See MPEP 410.

Applicants' request for a corrected patent application publication on September 8, 2006, may constitute a "failure to engage in reasonable efforts to conclude processing or examination of the application." See 1.704(c). This determination will be made on or after a mailing of a Notice of Allowance.

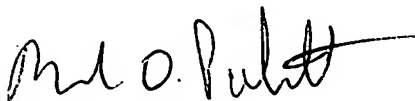
The applicant is advised that a "request for republication of an application previously published" may be filed under 37 CFR 1.221 (a). Such a request for republication "must include a copy of the application compliance with the Office's electronic filing system requirements and be accompanied by the publication fee set forth in § 1.18 (d) and the processing fee set forth in § 1.17 (i)." If the request for republication does not comply with the electronic filing system requirements, the republication will not take place and the publication fee set forth in § 1.18 (d) will be refunded. The processing fee will be retained.

Any request for republication under 37 CFR 1.221(a), must be submitted via the EFS system and questions or request for reconsideration of the decision, should be addressed as follows:

By mail to: Mail Stop PGPUB
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Va. 22313-1450

By facsimile: 571-273-8300

Inquiries relating to this matter may be directed to Mark Polutta at (571) 272-7709 (voice).



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